

Message Text

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50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 NEA-10 AF-10 SR-02 ORM-03

EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 071059Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 884

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: PARLIAMENT (NATIONALRAT) APPROVED
1974 BUDGET ITEM "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" ON DECEMBER 5
WITH VOTES OF GOVERNING SOCIALISTS (SPOE) AND
FREEDOM PARTY (FPOE) FOLLOWING LACKLUSTER DEBATE
DURING WHICH MAJOR OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY
(OEV) ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF HAVING DEVIATED
FROM JOINT POLICY FORMULATION, HAVING LOST PRESTIGE
OVER "SCHOENAU AFFAIR" AND LEANING TOWARDS NEUTRALISM.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANNUAL FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE WHICH PRECEDES
VOTE ON APPROPRIATION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PEOPLE'S
PARTY FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN FRANZ KARASEK ARGUED
THAT BIPARTISANSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HAS
CEASED TO EXIST BECAUSE GOVERNMENT WITHHOLDS
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OEVP. HE WARNED GOVERN-
MENT AGAINST SUCCUMBING "TO EXTERNAL ATTEMPTS TO
INFLUENCE AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY" AS EXEMPLIFIED BY
"RECENT CONFERENCES OF ARAB AMBASSADORS IN
VIENNA". FURTHERMORE, HE OBJECTED TO AUSTRIA'S
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PRESENCE AT RECENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT

ALGIERS. ON SCHOENAU AFFAIR, KARASEK WELCOMED
DECISION TO PERMIT CONTINUING TRANSIT OF SOVIET
JEWISH EMIGRANTS BUT MAINTAINED THAT LOSS OF
AUSTRIAN PRESTIGE IN CONNECTION WITH ARAB TERRORIST
INCIDENT HAS NOT YET BEEN OVERCOME. PEOPLE'S
PARTY MP KURT FIEDLER DEFINED OEVP FOREIGN POLICY
OBJECTIVES AS RESTING ON THREE PRINCIPLES,
NAMELY, FRICTIONLESS RELATIONS WITH FOUR SIGNATORY
POWERS TO STATE TREATY; AUSTRIA'S POTENTIAL
AS STABILIZING FACTOR IN CENTRAL EUROPE; AND THE
NATION'S HUMANITARIAN ROLE, ESPECIALLY IN REFUGEE
AFFAIRS. OEVP MP ALOIS MOCK ARGUED THAT A VIABLE
NATIONAL SECURITY POSTURE REQUIRES NOT ONLY
CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY BUT ALSO CREDIBILITY
IN AUSTRIA'S MORAL, ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE POLICIES.

3. SOCIALIST CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, KARL CZERNETZ, COUNTERED OEVP
ACCUSATION OF BEING INSUFFICIENTLY INFORMED BY
NOTING THAT OPPOSITION HAS NOT ACCEPTED FONMIN
KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S REPEATED BRIEFING OFFERS.
REJECTING FREQUENTLY VOICED OPPOSITION PARTY
CHARGES OF NEUTRALISM, CZERNETZ DECLARED THAT
SPOE "HAS NEVER LEFT ANY DOUBT THAT NEUTRALITY
REQUIRES ALOOFNESS FROM ALLIANCES BUT THAT DOES
NOT MEAN LACK OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES". HE ADDED
THAT "NEUTRALISM CALLS FOR IDEOLOGICAL NEUTRALITY
OF WHICH AUSTRIA SURELY CANNOT BE ACCUSED". AT
ANOTHER POINT IN DEBATE, CZERNETZ REAFFIRMED HIS
LONG-HELD CONVICTION THAT PRESENCE OF ADEQUATE
U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN
EAST-WEST BALANCE AND ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
FOR AUSTRIAN SECURITY. ON SCHOENAU AFFAIR,
CZERNETZ URGED OPPOSITION "TO STOP TALKING ABOUT
IT SINCE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES ARE NO LONGER
MENTIONING IT". HE NOTED THAT NEARLY 200 SOVIET
JEWS PER DAY HAVE BEEN TRANSITING AUSTRIA ON WAY
TO ISRAEL SINCE ARAB TERRORIST ATTACK OCCURRED.

4. RESPONDING TO VARIOUS ISSUES RAISED DURING
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DEBATE, FONMIN KIRCHSCHLAEGER STATED THAT AUSTRIAN
SECURITY IS BASED ON TWIN PILLARS REPRESENTING
FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES BUT PRESENTLY FOREIGN
POLICY PILLAR CARRIES MOST WEIGHT. COUNTERING
ACCUSATION OF DECLINE IN AUSTRIAN PRESTIGE ABROAD,
KIRCHSCHLAEGER CITED 1973 INCREASE FROM 91 TO 107
IN NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH AUSTRIA HAS
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS PROOF OF AUSTRIA'S GROWING

ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. KIRCHSCHLAEGER
ABLY DEFENDED AUSTRIA'S CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ON
SECURITY COUNCIL AS NOT BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH
NEUTRALITY; STRONGLY REJECTED IMPLICATION THAT
ATTENDANCE AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
SIGNALLED DRIFT TOWARD NON-ALIGNED CAMP; AND REFUSED
TO ACCEPT SOLE BLAME FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN PROPERTY
CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA NOTING
WHEN HIS OEVP PREDECESSOR DURING FOUR-YEAR TENURE
FOREIGN OFFICE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT.
ON SCHOENAU RELATED EVENTS, FONMIN MAINTAINED THAT
AUSTRIA HAS SWIFTLY RECOVERED ITS POLITICAL AND

HUMANITARIAN REPUTATION.HUMES

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